

Foreign Minister Greene pens letter to his US counterpart

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Newly elected SJRE ABLP branch chairman, Carl Christopher (extremely right) addresses the audience following his victory on Thursday night

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Local News



Response by Hon. E.P. Chet Greene to US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio “Americas First Foreign Policy”



I welcome remarks on the renewed focus of U.S. foreign policy in the Western Hemisphere, made the newly appointed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasizing cooperation, security and economic resilience. This shift is timely and, indeed, necessary. However, as the United States reorients its diplomatic attention closer to home, I urge the Trump administration to ensure that the Caribbean, an integral part of our Americas, is not overlooked.

The Caribbean is more than just a cluster of small island states; it is a critical geostrategic region, a bridge between North and South America and a gateway to vital global trade routes. Our nations have long shared deep historical, economic and cultural ties with the United States. Yet, our voices have too often been absent from high-level regional policy discussions. As you embark on your diplomatic engagements in Central America, I implore you to extend the same commitment to the Caribbean, recognizing us as indispensable partners in the security and economic architecture of the hemi-

sphere.

Secretary Rubio, rightfully pointed out that shared prosperity and stability should be the foundation of hemispheric engagement. This prosperity I respectfully posit, however, cannot be fully realized without addressing the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing states (SIDS). While the U.S. seeks to secure supply chains and promote economic resilience, it must acknowledge that the Caribbean has long been an enthusiastic, yet underutilized, partner in these endeavors. Trade agreements, investment in critical industries, science and technology collaboration can accelerate our mutual growth but these partnerships must be equitable and be reflective of the realities of Caribbean economies. Special and differential treatment for our nations is not a favor; it is a necessity for sustainable engagement.

Additionally, any meaningful “Americas First” policy must include an urgent and pragmatic approach to climate change. Our region is on the front lines of climate vulnerability, facing increasingly frequent and devastating hurricanes, rising sea levels and economic displacement. The existential threat climate change poses to our civilization demands not only recognition but decisive action. The U.S., as the leading economy of the hemisphere, has a moral and strategic obligation to spearhead climate policies that mitigate these threats and ensure the long-term survival and prosperi-

ty of our nations.

As a son of the Caribbean yourself, Mr. Secretary, there is no denying that you understand the weight of these concerns. Your words offer hope but forgive us if we meet them with caution. Our region has heard many promises before, only to be met with inaction or policies that serve to entrench economic disparity. True partnership will be measured not by rhetoric but by tangible commitments to development, resilience and mutual respect. Your pronouncements of hope are shared by our Caribbean civilization.

The Caribbean buoyed by your optimism, remains

ready to engage in meaningful collaboration with the United States. We ask only that as you work to strengthen regional partnerships, you do not let ideological differences or size disparities dictate who is worthy of engagement. The voices of our people demand respect, and our nations seek partnerships built on fairness, opportunity and shared responsibility.

We look forward in great anticipation to seeing the unfolding of this new US foreign policy, under your leadership, will translate shared and common ambitions into reality for all the nations our Americas.

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Sir Ron sounds the alarm: Democracy is under threat



Sir Ronald Sanders

This statement was issued by Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS) on Wednesday this week at a special meeting of the OAS Permanent Council.

"We find ourselves in a period of great uncertainty and trepidation"

Democracy is under threat in many parts of the world, including in countries that have long claimed to be champions of democracy and human rights. Democratic institutions are under siege, and in many cases, they appear to be weakening. The constitutional order in numerous member states faces unprecedented challenges, eroding the very foundations upon which democracy stands. Feeding the rise of these unwelcome phenomena is the deliberate use of misinformation and disinformation, now amplified by artificial intelligence, making it increasingly difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.

Even more troubling is the deliberate spread of falsehoods—not by rogue actors alone, but by figures of great authority in member states—weaponized as a tool of persuasion.

This corrodes public trust, distorts democratic discourse, and ultimately weakens the Inter-American Democratic Charter itself.

Mr Chairman, if ever there was a time for institutions and peoples to stand firmly in defence of the tenets of the Charter, that time is now.

We find ourselves in a period of great uncertainty and trepidation.

The only path back to trust, stability, and confidence in a rules-based international order is through the unwavering respect for democracy by all nations and a firm commitment by all institutions to uphold the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the OAS Charter, and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

No single nation can meet this challenge alone.

The defence of democracy is a collective responsibility, and the OAS - as the leading multilateral institution in the Americas - has a duty to ensure that the Inter-American Democratic Charter remains a living, enforceable instrument, not just an aspirational document.

The Charter provides a clear framework for the protection of democratic institutions, the rule of law, and the fundamental rights of citizens, and its implementation must be reinforced with renewed urgency, albeit with due regard to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

At the same time, we must develop a cooperative and effective policy to address the use of social media platforms for the dissemination of disinformation and misinformation.

We ought not to live in a world where every statement and every claim must be relentlessly fact-checked.

Such an environment breeds distrust, and distrust

breeds hostility.

Hostility, in turn, leads to conflict—conflict that must be avoided at all costs if our shared planet is to remain politically stable, economically prosperous, and peaceful for the benefit of all peoples.

Antigua and Barbuda remains steadfast in its commitment to these principles which are vital to us as a small state.

But we suggest that they are now equally vital to us all – big or small, rich or poor.

Therefore, we urge all member states to act with urgency and resolve in preserving democracy and rights in our hemisphere and globally.

Thank you.

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- Provide advanced administrative support to various departments.
- Create and maintain comprehensive documentation and reports.
- Assist in the development and implementation of business processes and procedures.
- Attend internal and external meetings and workshops as required.
- Collaborate with the small business sector to identify training needs.
- Work cross-functionally with other departments to deliver general business services.

Key Skills and Qualifications:

- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Strong problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Advanced knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, and Word.
- Team player and wiliness to learn new skills.
- First Degree in Business Administration or a related field is preferred.

How to Apply: Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume and a cover letter outlining their qualifications and experience. Please send your application to **P.O. Box 80, St. John's, Antigua by February 21, 2025.**

New chairman, management team take over in St. John's Rural East constituency



Radio host, Carl Christopher, has been elected chairman of the St. John's Rural East branch of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

The election took place Thursday night at the Clare Hall Secondary school where hundreds of people turned out to show support for their respective slate of candidates.

Christopher received a total of 176 votes to outgoing chairperson, Claudette Mason, who received 39 votes. Deputy Chair

went to Baldwin 'Spliff' Anthony who secured 171 votes to his opponent's 45.

The other members of the executive that will serve alongside Christopher and Anthony are; Secretary, Soroya Henry, Treasurer, Freeston Robinson, Woman Development Officer, Arlene McMaster, and Youth Development Officer, Imani Sinclair.

The Management Team comprises; Berchel Andrew, Patricia Alexander, Nadine Armstrong, Cedric Dunnah, Leslie John

Dunnah, Dionne Isaac, Monefa Lewis and Philbert Mason.

Observers say the enthusiasm generated by the elections points to 'strong support' for the ABLP in the constituency.

Party sources say this election in SJRE forms part of the party's efforts to revive its branches in all seventeen constituencies and have them in a constant state of readiness for any eventuality.

A similar branch election is slated for next Thursday in the St. John's City West constituency.

More than sixty persons attend counselling workshop at UWI FIC



More than sixty persons drawn from organisations that interact with young people came together on Thursday for a workshop/training session that focused on the issue of youth violence.

Organised by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the workshop was attended by counsellors in the education system, representatives of the social agencies associated with the Ministry of Social Transformation, the police and youth focused organisations.

The university's Recruitment and Retention Manager, Adeola Matthew, said her institution is hosting the

counselor's workshop for coaches, advocates, pastors, mentors or anyone who works with young people.

"The purpose of this workshop is to extend the conversation about youth, juvenile issues and we will be talking about men because the boys in society seem to be having a challenge navigating society. So we planned this forum together with persons from the social transformation ministry focusing on schools' counselors, the youth intervention unit of the police who are brought together because we wanted to have this conversation going; we see what's happening in the society and we want to address the problem," she

explained.

On the question of whether organising such a programme falls within the scope of the university's mandate, Matthew further explained that the university has a teaching and learning mandate, but that it also has a research mandate as well as an outreach mandate.

"Part of what our university campuses are required to do is to advance dialogue on important issues so Thursday's session aligns with the work of the university. Additionally, the topics

that are being discussed tie in with two programmes that the university has introduced; these are a BSc in Psychology and the other a BSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice. We recognized that there is a need in the society for trained persons who are able to address these concerns, understand the psychology of not only young people, but all persons, understand why they are doing, what they are doing as we move towards a more normalized society," she remarked.

Barbuda shares in cruise tourism trade

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is reporting that efforts to bring Barbuda into the cruise tourism sector is paying dividends with the island expected to have a total of six cruise ship calls during this month.

The first of these calls happened this week, with another five to go including two slated for Sunday.

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

is reporting that the Emerald Azzurra will be spending a day visiting the sister isle on Sunday. Port sources say the vessel will arrive at the St. John's Harbour on Friday night as it home ports here during the season. It spends Saturday in the St. John's Harbour before journeying over to Barbuda on Sunday.

The Star Flyer will make the first of two calls for the month on Sunday as

well. Its second call is scheduled for February 23.

Another vessel, Le Ponant made a call to Barbuda on Tuesday this week, with two more calls slated for February 13 and 25.

Fernandez said these are small cruise ships with a clientele who are able to pay the extra costs involved in such a cruise.

The case against a Cedar Grove man on a wounding with intent charge adjourned until March

A case against Cedar Grove resident, Kenroy Joseph, has been adjourned until March when it will resume in the Magistrate's Court.

Joseph is charged with wounding with intent to commit murder following an incident that happened on October 19, 2024, in Cedar Grove.

The prosecution told the magistrate that Joseph 'unlawfully and maliciously' wounded Najah Berlin with intent to commit murder. The charge is being

brought under the Offences Against the Person Act.

The case has been adjourned until March 25.

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SLBMC says 'thanks' to CIBC Caribbean for donation



IN PHOTO (L-R): Joycelyn Phillip RN (SLBMC Oncology Dept.), Hanybal Yazigi MD (SLBMC Oncology Dept. Chair) and Ladessa James-Williams (CIBC Caribbean Country Manager)

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, one of two entities that received donations of monies from the CIBC Caribbean's Walk for the Cure Initiative, is publicly expressing its appreciation to the bank and its staff for the timely assistance.

Penned by Marketing and Communications Manager, Salma Crump, the health institution expresses its sincere thanks to the financial institution for its exceptional support through the Walk for the Cure 2024 event.

"Their dedication and generosity continue to make a significant impact on our efforts to provide crucial cancer care services, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them as a partner in this critical work," Crump stated.

She noted that last year's Walk for the Cure event was a resounding success, with CIBC Caribbean raising an incredible \$105,000—a record-breaking donation! "We are especially grateful that \$52,500 of this amount will be directed

to the SLBMC Oncology Department, helping us to continue our vital work in

cancer care. The other half of the donation will go to Breast Friends, another outstanding organization that is providing invaluable support to the community.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the public and all the sponsors who supported Walk for the Cure 2024. Your participation and contributions—regardless of the amount—are incredibly impactful and help drive the success of this event. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue our important work in cancer care. So yes, you are

making a difference and we are all truly grateful for your ongoing support," Crump noted.

She described CIBC Caribbean's dedication to this cause as 'truly inspiring' noting that SLBMC is proud to partner with them in the fight against cancer. "Together, we are creating a healthier, cancer-free future for our community," she declared.

Thank you once again to CIBC Caribbean, Breast Friends, the public, and all the sponsors for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference.



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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Historic Milestone for Eastern Caribbean Telecom Operators as Mr. Vaughn Brown is Elected to the CANTO Board of Directors

Willemstad, Curaçao, 6th February, 2025 – In a historic development for the telecommunications industry in the Eastern Caribbean, Mr. Vaughn Brown, APUA Telecoms Business Unit Manager, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations (CANTO). This milestone occurred during CANTO's 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM), CANTO Connect, held January 26–28, 2025, at the Renaissance Wind Creek Curaçao Resort. Mr. Brown is a seasoned telecom professional with 30 years of industry experience.

This is a welcomed opportunity for APUA to be represented on the prestigious board, underscoring the growing influence of regional players in shaping the telecommunications landscape.

Mr. Brown brings a wealth of industry expertise and a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by independent operators in the region. His leadership promises to be a transformative force as CANTO continues to advocate for digital innovation and connectivity throughout the Caribbean.

In response to his election, Mr. Brown expressed his gratitude and commitment:

"I am deeply honored by the confidence placed in me by the CANTO membership. This appointment is a testament to the resilience and growing impact of independent operators in the Caribbean. During my term, I intend to be a strong advocate for our interests, working collaboratively to drive meaningful change and innovation in the industry."

Mr. Brown's election comes as CANTO welcomes Mr. Delreo Newman of ATN International as its new Chairman, signaling a renewed focus on strategic industry leadership.

The election of Mr. Brown represents a significant step forward in amplifying the voice of local operators within CANTO's initiatives, as the organization continues its mission to promote telecommunications development and cooperation across the region.

About CANTO

CANTO is the leading trade association of telecommunications organizations in the Caribbean, dedicated to fostering innovation, collaboration, and connectivity throughout the region.

- END -



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

WEB PROGRAMMER/SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. After 76 years, The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 2% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Web Programmer/Systems Administrator (IT Officer I)**. The incumbent will play a central role in developing, maintaining and optimizing websites, web-based applications and platforms, ensuring seamless user experiences that support business objectives. This role will also be crucial in managing and maintaining IT infrastructure to ensure the Campus's systems and servers are highly available, secure, and scalable.

The Web Programmer/Systems Administrator (IT Officer I) will be expected to work with the Campus' systems which might include Drupal CMS, AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Microsoft SQL Server, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript frameworks (e.g., React, Angular, Vue.js).

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Design, code, modify and troubleshoot web applications, ensuring they are optimized for usability, speed, and performance.
- Functions as the Campus Web Master by maintaining all FIC websites in collaboration with the Marketing team to ensure all the standards regarding the single university brand are met.
- Provides the technical support for content management system (CMS) – Drupal is currently being used.
- Creates online applications to deliver functionality to the user or for the purpose of creating an intuitive interface.
- Monitors system performance and performs routine server backups, updates, and patches.
- Administers databases ensuring data integrity, security and performance.
- Sets up and manages user access, ensuring proper security protocols are in place for system users.
- Troubleshoots and resolves hardware, software, and network issues.
- Administers security solutions (firewalls, EDR, etc.) to protect the organization's digital assets.
- Manages cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) and ensures smooth integration with on-premises infrastructure.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Systems or a related discipline.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience in web programming and design, and system administration.
- Technical training and deep familiarity with the Drupal CMS.
- Experience with server operating systems (Linux, Windows Server).
- Experience with higher education applications, Ellucian Banner is a plus
- Hands-on experience with cloud services (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure).
- Experience providing technical support and training end-users.
- Familiarity with database technologies, including Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft Access.
- Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, PHP, JavaScript, and SQL.
- Strong knowledge of web technologies including: HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript frameworks (e.g., React, Angular, Vue.js).
- Knowledge of secure coding practices, web vulnerability assessments, and penetration testing.

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Attention to detail and a commitment to quality.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current or previous organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu addressed to **The Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. A full CV and an application form must be submitted. Application forms can be obtained by sending a request to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu or via the link: <https://bit.ly/UWIApplicationForm> The final date for receipt of applications is **February 14, 2025**. To expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.

Opinion

Is CARICOM Failing Its Smaller Countries?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Recently, the smaller member states of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) have renewed complaints that the promised benefits and compensatory mechanisms that convinced them to join first CARIFTA in 1968, and later CARICOM in 1973, have not materialized.

While the larger economies - Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados - have leveraged CARICOM to gain preferential trade access to the smaller economies of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), reciprocal access has been denied through non-tariff barriers and other restrictive measures. The implementation of the Common External Tariff (CET), designed to protect goods produced in larger CARICOM economies, has also led to higher consumer prices for smaller states, depriving them of the ability to source cheaper goods from extra-regional markets.

This issue was extensively discussed in the West Indian Commission's 1992 Report, "Time for Action," which underscored the urgent need for a more equitable distribution of benefits in regional integration. The report highlighted how smaller economies were at a disadvantage in trade relations within CARICOM and recommended stronger mechanisms to ensure balanced participation. However, more than three decades later, many of these

recommendations remain unimplemented.

From its inception, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) was meant to foster balanced regional economic integration, ensuring that smaller economies were not left at a disadvantage. To that end, compensatory mechanisms such as the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) were introduced, but they have failed due to inconsistent and inadequate contributions from the larger member states. Without adequate funding, smaller economies have been unable to diversify, modernize their industries, or compete equitably within the regional market. The CDF was envisioned as a tool for redistributing the gains of integration, yet it remains severely underfunded, with only sporadic contributions from the beneficiary countries.

The free movement of labour, another cornerstone of CARICOM's integration efforts, was also intended to compensate for the closure of small-scale manufacturing enterprises in the OECS that could not withstand competition from the larger states. However, even this mechanism, which would have allowed smaller economies to take advantage of employment opportunities in larger CARICOM states, has not benefited nationals of OECS countries. This issue was highlighted in the 2018 ILO Report on Caribbean Labor Mobility, which found that intra-re-



Sir Ronald Sanders

gional migration patterns heavily favour larger states, limiting opportunities for smaller economies. Jamaica and Guyana were the main beneficiaries of movement by unskilled labour over the period 1975 to 2018.

At a time of global economic uncertainty, shrinking access to affordable financing, the worsening effects of climate change, and a retreat from multilateralism, CARICOM should be a stronger, more unified bloc. Instead, the deep-seated trade disadvantages affecting smaller states have been allowed to fester, undermining regional solidarity. It should be noted that while Belize, Guyana and Suriname also suffered, the members of the OECS were most affected,

Despite decades of effort to establish a genuine Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), this work remains largely incomplete. The necessary legal, structural, and compensatory mechanisms remain underdeveloped or

unimplemented. However, even within the limited aspects of the CSME that have been established, Trinidad and Tobago has been the principal beneficiary. Blame for the failure to advance the CSME does not lie with the regional public servants who have worked tirelessly for years to advance regional integration. Instead, it falls squarely on political leaders who prioritize national sovereignty and economic self-interest over regional progress. The unwillingness of CARICOM governments to enforce commitments made in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas has left the promise of CARICOM unfulfilled for the mass of its people.

This failure extends beyond trade. CARICOM's ability to coordinate foreign policy - once a source of strength in the 1970s - has also deteriorated. On crucial geopolitical matters, the member states have become vulnerable to external influence,

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Opinion

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easily divided by powerful nations seeking bilateral advantage. None of this is in CARICOM's interest - especially now, when small states face existential threats that require a united regional front.

CARICOM's founding visionaries, including Sir Shridath Ramphal and P.J. Patterson, recognized that only through deeper economic cooperation, a common foreign policy, and collective bargaining could the region safeguard its sovereignty and ensure prosperity for all members. Their legacy should serve as a guidepost, reminding the region of what is at stake when unity is compromised.

Urgent reforms must be undertaken to render CARICOM more effective, particularly by making its trading system truly equitable. These could include: reinvigorating the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) by making contributions mandatory for larger states, ensuring sustained funding to support economic diversification in smaller economies; eliminating non-tariff barriers that restrict exports from smaller states, including bureaucratic delays and arbitrary licensing requirements that effectively block market access; creating enforceable rules for free movement of labour to ensure that OECS nationals have equal opportunities to migrate for work without unnecessary restrictions; and strengthening CARICOM's foreign policy coordination by establishing a mechanism for collective decision-making that

prevents external powers from exploiting divisions within the bloc.

One thing, however, must never be considered - the abandonment of the regional integration movement. Despite its shortcomings, CARICOM remains a crucial bulwark against global marginalization. Without it, member states risk becoming mere geopolitical real estate, vulnerable to economic and political absorp-

tion by larger powers.

The only viable path forward is a reinvigorated CARICOM - one that eschews insularity and delivers on its foundational promises of fairness, equity, and shared prosperity for all members, large and small alike. As veteran advocate of Caribbean integration, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves aptly stated, "The quickening pace of the challenges of nature and the global

economic challenges have made it imperative that we build a CARICOM that is better and stronger while recognising its inbuilt and operational limitations."

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY
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The University of the West Indies (UWI) is a dynamic, international institution serving the countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Its faculties and institutes offer a wide range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programmes in Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, Engineering, Law, Medical Sciences, Sport and the Social Sciences. The institution represents the oldest of its kind within the region and has been responsible for producing outstanding leaders who have made remarkable contributions to regional development. After 76 years, The UWI remains the number 1 ranked university, out of more than 200 registered universities in the Caribbean. The UWI is currently within the top 4% of universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a complement of over 2,000 registered universities.

The University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) is inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Accounting Assistant III (Grade 9) in the Bursary**.

DUTIES OF THE POST INCLUDE:

- Ensuring strict adherence to The University's Financial Code and financial policies and procedures.
- Assisting with the planning of workflow programmes and ensuring that Section and overall Bursarial targets are achieved.
- Assisting in the supervision of staff in fulfilling the objectives of the Section within specified timelines and promoting good work ethics.
- Assisting in the preparation of final accounts and monthly financial schedules, reports specific to the assigned Section and various other financial reports for management and/or external stakeholders within set deadlines.
- Any other duties assigned by the Section Financial Manager to ensure that the departmental goals are achieved and are in alignment with The University's strategic objectives.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Applicants should be familiar with the University's mission, structure, policies and procedures. Applicants must possess knowledge and experience of accounting principles, practices and procedures; knowledge and experience of computerised accounting systems and applications. Applicants should have the ability to meet strict reporting deadlines and should be skilled in performing detailed and complex numerical computations and reports. Candidates should be proficient in Banner Finance and PeopleSoft HRMS and must be proficient in Microsoft Office Suite.

QUALIFICATION, TRAINING & EXPERIENCE:

Education:

Required

Candidates must have completed Level II ACCA and/or possess a BSc Degree in Accounting/Management/Finance or equivalent professional accounting qualifications from a recognized body.

Experience:

Required

At least three (3) years of experience in a computerised accounting environment preferably at a Grade 7 Accounting Assistant II level.

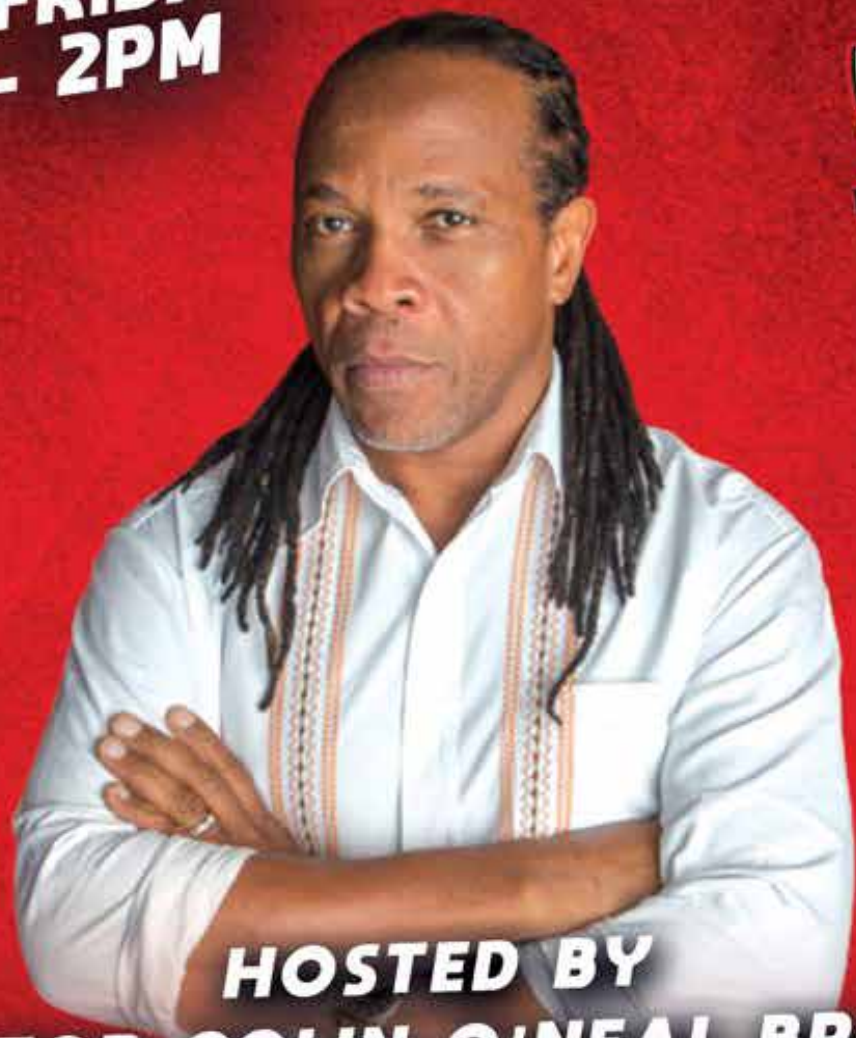
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Salary will be fixed in accordance with the Grade 9 salary scale.

Applicants are required to submit a completed employment application form, a curriculum vitae (CV) giving particulars of qualifications, experience, the names and addresses of at least three (3) references (one of whom should be from your current or previous organization) and copies of academic qualifications. These are to be sent by electronic mail to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu addressed to **The Campus Registrar, The University of the West Indies, Five Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies**. A full CV and an application form must be submitted. Application forms can be obtained by sending a request to fic.employeesuccessdepartment@uwi.edu or via the link: <https://bit.ly/UWIApplicationForm>. The final date for receipt of applications is **February 14, 2025**. To expedite the appointment procedures, applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above address without waiting to be contacted.

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US to seize Venezuelan president's plane held in Dominican Republic



The Trump administration plans to seize a second plane belonging to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's government that is currently in the Dominican Republic.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio intends to announce the seizure on Thursday during a visit to Santo Domingo, the last stop of his five nation tour of Central America, according to a US official familiar with the matter and a State Department document obtained by The Associated Press.

Carrying out the seizure required that Rubio sign off on a foreign aid freeze waiver request to pay

more than \$230,000 in storage and maintenance fees. It also required approval by the Department of Justice.

That waiver request, submitted early last week, has been approved and Rubio is expected to make the announcement at what the State Department has described publicly as only a "law enforcement engagement."

The plane is a Dassault Falcon 200 that has been used by Maduro and top aides, including his vice president and defense minister to travel the world, including Greece, Turkey, Russia and Cuba, in what the administration says are violations of US

sanctions, according to the document.

The seizure of the plane comes just a week after President Donald Trump's envoy for special missions, Richard Grenell, visited Caracas and met with Maduro to discuss the repatriation of Venezuelan nationals who illegally entered the United States. Grenell returned with six Americans who had been detained in Venezuela.

The US seized another of Maduro's planes from the Dominican Republic in September 2024.

At the time, the Justice Department said Maduro associates in late 2022

and early 2023 used a Caribbean-based shell company to hide their involvement in the purchase of the plane — a Dassault Falcon 900EX valued at \$13 million — from a company in Florida.

In a development related to Rubio's first stop on the Central American tour, Panama, the State Department announced Thursday that the Panamanians had agreed to allow US warships to transit the Panama Canal without charge.

Those fees had been one focus of President Donald Trump's complaints about the canal, which he has said will retake from Panama unless it severely limits Chinese influence in the area.

"US government vessels can now transit the Panama Canal without charge fees, saving the US government millions of dollars a year," the department said in a post on X.

An agreement in principle to drop the fees had been reached when Rubio visited Panama on Sunday, but it had not been finalized. (*Loop Caribbean*)

Court rejects Erla's bid to block Benjamin's acting CoP appointment... but says she can challenge PolSC suspension order

Embattled Police Commissioner Erla Harewood-Christopher has failed in her attempt to thwart a move to temporarily replace her while she remains on suspension because of an ongoing criminal probe.

High Court Judge Christopher Sieuchand dismissed Harewood-Christopher's injunction application, after hearing lengthy submissions from her lawyers and those for the Police Service Commission (PolSC) during a virtual hearing yesterday afternoon.

His decision came almost an hour after the House of Representatives debated and approved the commission's recommendation to appoint Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Junior Benjamin to temporarily act in the CoP post while Harewood-Christopher remains under suspension.

However, it was not a total defeat for Harewood-Christopher, as Justice Sieuchand granted her leave to pursue her substantive case challenging her suspension by the PolSC.

In his decision, Justice Sieuchand noted that while Harewood-Christopher had filed a judicial review lawsuit over the PolSC's decision to suspend her, she only sought



the injunction in relation to its associated recommendation of Benjamin to act as CoP.

"In my view, the balance of convenience does not favour granting this order. In fact, it militates against it," Justice Sieuchand said.

He argued that leaving the post open would be inappropriate based on the role and importance of the office.

"Allowing such a void to persist cannot, in my view, be justified when the present circumstances are such that our country is plagued by high levels of reported serious crime and we continue under a State of Emergency," he said.

although she was released from custody without being charged.

"These are mixed questions of fact and law to be determined at trial," he said.

Before adjourning the case to March 6, Justice Sieuchand gave directions and deadlines for the filing of evidence.

Last Thursday, Harewood-Christopher was arrested and detained by investigators led by DCP Suzette Martin.

Her arrest was in relation to a probe into the procurement and importation of two sniper rifles for the Strategic Services Agency (SSA).

The commission informed Harewood-Christopher of her suspension hours after she was released from custody at the St Clair Police Station pending further investigations on Saturday.

Presenting submissions yesterday, Harewood-Christopher's lawyer Pamela Elder, SC, claimed that when the PolSC communicated its decision, it provided little information for its basis for doing so.

She noted that additional particulars were provided when it responded to her client's legal threat on Monday.

"The PolSC is scrambling
con't on pg 16

"The powers of the Commissioner of Police are there for a reason and someone ought to be entrusted to discharge them," he added.

Dealing with whether Harewood-Christopher should be given approval to pursue the case, Justice Sieuchand noted that she had raised arguable grounds with a realistic prospect of success at an eventual trial.

He specifically identified her lawyers' complaints over her not being allowed to make representations before the commission took the decision and over the commission having insufficient evidence before it to warrant its action to suspend her

Regional News

con't from pg 15

to justify its decision,” Elder said, as she questioned how her client could adequately respond without knowing the allegations levelled against her.

“How could I respond if I don’t know how I misbehaved or what I have done?” Elder asked. She suggested that the commission had to have information that Harewood-Christopher had committed the offence of misbehaviour in public office she was being probed for.

“You cannot suspend based on an officer’s suspicion,” Elder said. She claimed that her client’s suspension had also caused damage to her professional reputation. “The suspension has exacerbated the humiliation,” she said.

Elder also suggested that the commission did not have the power to suspend without first instituting disciplinary proceedings against her.

In response, the commission’s lawyer, Deborah Peake, SC, stated that her client only had to be satisfied that Harewood-Christopher may have committed the offence. She said disciplinary proceedings were not required.

“There is nothing that the Police Commissioner has said to suggest the investigation was improper. There is no evidence she did not sign the import permit,” Peake said.

“It is difficult to see how

it might not appear to the commission that she may have committed an offence,” she added.

Peake also argued that Harewood-Christopher’s reputation was not impacted by the PolSC’s decision.

“The embarrassment occurred from her being arrested, detained and cautioned,” she said. Peake said the commission could not be faulted for taking the action, as if Harewood-Christopher remained in the post she would have retained the power to stop investigations, transfer officers, and decide upon firearm user’s

licences (FULs).

“The PolSC had to act with dispatch in the public interest,” Peake said.

“These are serious and grave allegations,” she added.

Peake also pointed out that in her court filings, Harewood-Christopher only claimed that DCP Martin, who is leading the probe and provided information to the commission before it made its decision, may have been motivated by bias.

“She has not said that these officers have a vendetta against me,” Peake said.

Peake also claimed the

commission would be willing to reconsider its decision when the probe is completed next week, or if Harewood-Christopher provides submissions on the suspension before then.

“If the commissioner has evidence that this investigation is trumped up or biased, then we hope she would present it to the commission,” she said. Harewood-Christopher was also represented by Russell Warner, while Ravi Heffes-Doon appeared alongside Peake for the commission. (*Trinidad Guardian*)

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Belize announces major US\$58.4M energy project to enhance power grid

Belize has announced the launch of a new US\$58.4 million energy project aimed at improving the country's power supply and reliability.

The new Belize Energy Resilience and Sustain-

50 per cent of electricity used on the power grid from neighbouring Mexico.

"These imports, tied to fluctuating oil and gas prices and purchased at volatile spot market rates,

these challenges have led to planned power outages and reliability issues that impact both households and businesses across the nation."

The project will install four 10-megawatt battery

sources like solar and wind into the grid.

"This project represents a crucial milestone for Belize's energy independence and sustainability," said Lilia Burunciuc, World Bank Director for the Caribbean. "By investing in advanced storage solutions and renewable energy integration, we are ensuring a more reliable and affordable power supply for communities while paving the way for a greener future."

Olivier Jacques, Ambassador of Canada to Guatemala and High Commissioner of Canada to Belize, said: "Energy security is a challenge for many nations, especially for Caribbean countries. This is why the Government of Canada is proud to support Belize in its journey towards a more resilient and sustainable future. By investing in innovative power solutions and fostering inclusive growth, we are helping to build a robust energy infrastructure that will support sustainable development and improve the quality of life for communities across Belize." (Loop Caribbean)



ability Project is being funded through a partnership with the World Bank and the Government of Canada.

The World Bank will provide Belize with a US\$50 million loan through its International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, while Canada will lend US\$8.2 million.

The remaining funding comes from a US\$200,000 grant from Canada Clean Energy and Forests Climate Facility. Belize currently imports

make electricity costs unpredictable and burden consumers. The country's power infrastructure is also highly vulnerable to disruptions from extreme weather events, which was demonstrated during Hurricane Lisa in 2022, which left the capital without electricity and potable water," the World Bank said.

"Combined with no new generation capacity added in over a decade despite a 48 per cent increase in peak demand,

systems in key districts—San Pedro, Dangriga, Orange Walk, and Belize District—giving Belize the ability to manage its power supply, reduce outages, and optimise electricity costs for consumers.

This is especially crucial for the poorest customers, who currently spend up to 30 per cent of their pre-tax income on electricity.

The battery systems will also support the integration of renewable energy

Syrians and Bosnian among victims of gunman's attack on Swedish school

Syrians and a Bosnian were among the 10 victims of a gunman who carried out the worst shooting in Swedish history, at a school in Orebro on Tuesday.

It was the first information about those murdered, and it came from two embassies rather than police, who said only that there were victims of a number of nationalities.

Police said the suspected gunman, named locally as 35-year-old Rickard Andersson, was found dead afterwards, with three guns by his side.

The regional police chief said police faced an “inferno” when they entered the school buildings: “Dead people, screams and smoke.”

Lars Wiren spoke of a scene of chaos at Risbergsska school, with people running in and out of a very large complex that stretched over about 17,000 sq m.

Anna Bergqvist, the head of the police investigation, told the BBC police could confirm only that people of multiple nationalities and ages were caught up in the shooting.

One Bosnian national was killed and another wounded, the Bosnian embassy said. Ambassador Bojan Susic laid flowers outside the school in Orebro on Thursday.

The Syrian embassy gave no details of the number of Syrians affected, but said: “We offer our sincere condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, including dear Syrian citizens, and to the friendly Swedish people.”

However, it soon emerged that Salim Iskef, a 29-year-old Orthodox Christian who fled the war in Syria in 2015, was one of the 10 victims.

Santa Maria church in Orebro said his life had ended tragically in the shooting.

Jacob Kasselia, the priest at Orebro's Syrian Orthodox church, told the BBC that Mr Iskef was a kind and thoughtful young man who had arrived from Aleppo in 2015 and was due to get married this summer.

Swedish reports said he had become a Swedish citizen.

The priest said Mr Iskef's fiancée had been

“very badly affected” by the murder.

“She is going through a very difficult, very dark experience,” Mr Kasselia said.

Mr Iskef's aunt told Arabic-language website Alkompis he had made a video call to his mother to say he had been shot and asked her to look after his fiancée.

The Bosnian embassy said it had chosen to wait for official information from police, although it had relevant information from Orebro's Bosnian community.

There has been some frustration in Orebro at the slow pace at which police have been releasing information about their inquiry.

“I find it odd, to say the least, that the police choose to withhold information that pertains to foreign citizens, from respective embassies,” Ambassador Susic told the BBC. He described the Bosnian community as among the best integrated in Sweden.

Police remain tight-lipped about both the suspect and the possible motive behind the attack.

Anna Bergqvist ex-

plained that the delay in naming the suspect was because of the wait for DNA samples to be matched.

Swedish police are usually cautious about naming suspects and would not normally do so ahead of charges being laid, but Ms Bergqvist said they expected to make an exception in this case and release a name in the coming days.

Risbergsska school provides adult education for people aged over 20 who did not finish primary or secondary school, as well as Swedish classes for immigrants.

Young residents in Orebro had already expressed fears of a racial element to the shooting, and the Syrian statement confirmed that immigrants were among the victims.

Sweden's TV4 channel broadcast a video recorded from a school toilet during the gun attack, in which the words “away from Europe!” can be heard.

It is not clear who shouted the words and police have been careful not to discuss a motive. (*BBC News*)

State of emergency declared for Santorini after quakes



A state of emergency has been declared on the Greek island of Santorini after days of consecutive earthquakes.

It comes after a magnitude 5.2 tremor was recorded at 21:09 local time (19:09 GMT) on Wednesday between the Greek islands of Amorgos and Santorini, making it the strongest in recent days. It is estimated to have occurred at a depth of 5km (3.1 miles).

The decree will be in effect until 3 March to “address the emergency needs and manage the consequences”, officials said.

More than 11,000 people have already left Santorini, with around 7,000 departing by ferry and 4,000 by air.

A 4.7 magnitude quake was also recorded south-west of Amorgos at 07:50 local time on Thursday, following 57 tremors between midnight and 06:30.

Magnitude refers to the size of an earthquake, with increases marked as decimal points. A magnitude 6.0 and above is considered severe, where as a magnitude 5.2, the strongest experienced so far in the region, is considered moderate.

So far no major damage has been reported on the island, but authorities are preparing

in case a larger quake hits.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is expected to visit Santorini on Friday.

Vasilis Karastathis, director of the Geodynamic Institute, told Greek state-owned broadcaster ERT News that “seismicity continues at the same pace as in previous days, intense”.

“We have a fairly high number of earthquakes with magnitudes above 4,” he said.

“We are still in the middle of the road. We have not seen any thinning, any sign that it is heading towards retreat.”

Santorini welcomes millions of tourists annually, but it is currently low season, meaning local residents and workers make up the majority of evacuees.

Due to the state of emergency, repairs to things like public roads and ports can skip usual bureaucratic requirements and begin immediately.

“We are in a particularly uncertain stage, where we cannot accurately determine the duration of the seismic swarm nor its exact origin,” Costas Synolakis, a professor of natural disasters, told ERTNews.

He said it is necessary to remain prepared for the possibility of a larger earthquake

and a “volcanic crisis” like the one in Santorini.

To cope with this, extra generators have arrived and a backup telecommunication station is being set up at Santorini City Hall.

Islanders also fear of a tsunami, with makeshift defences built from sacks along Monolithos beach in Santorini, where the buildings are very close to the sea.

All hospital employees are on standby to help those who have remained on the island with all leave and days off cancelled.

Additional ambulance crews, police officers, soldiers and military vehicles have also arrived in Santorini, with medical personnel sent from Naxos, another island.

Vassilis Kikilias, the climate and civil protection minister, said units of firefighters trained in natural disasters were being despatched to Santorini.

Teams with special dogs and a mobile operations centre have also been sent to the island, while helicopters are on standby.

Kikilias also said the coast guard and armed forces would be available to assist vulnerable people who wish to evacuate.

Poor weather means the ferry from Santorini to Piraeus port near Athens is not operating. The adverse conditions are expected to continue over the coming days.

Many travellers remain at Santorini’s port to board emergency ferry routes that have been set up.

Schools on Santorini - and other neighbouring islands including Anafi, Paros,

Naxos and Mykonos - will remain closed until Friday, when authorities will make a decision about when they can re-open.

Earlier on Wednesday, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis had struck an optimistic tone at a meeting of civil protection experts.

“All plans have been implemented. Forces have been moved to Santorini and the other islands, so that we are ready for any eventuality,” he said.

He asked the islanders to “stay calm and cooperate with the authorities”.

The Thira Chamber of Commerce earlier called for business on the island to be suspended and emergency support measures be taken in line with those during Covid-19.

Santorini is on what is known as the Hellenic Volcanic Arc - a chain of islands created by volcanoes - but the last major eruption was in the 1950s.

Greek authorities have said the recent tremors were related to tectonic plate movements, not volcanic activity.

Scientists cannot predict the exact timing, size or location of earthquakes.

But there are areas of the world where they are more likely to occur, which helps governments prepare.

Earthquakes are the result of movement of tectonic plates in the earth’s crust. Sometimes these plates lock together when they meet, which is called a plate boundary or a fault line.

Santorini and the other Greek Islands are near such a line. (*BBC News*)

Panama denies US claims over free canal passages

Panama has denied making changes to allow US government vessels to transit the Panama Canal for free, following White House claims it had agreed to such a move.

The State Department said in a statement on X that its government vessels “can now transit the Panama Canal without charge fees, saving the US government millions of dollars a year”.

Responding to the comments, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) said it was “empowered to set tolls and other fees for transiting the canal,” adding that it had “not made any adjustments to them”.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly voiced his desire to retake control of the waterway, which is key to global trade.

The 51-mile (82km) Panama Canal cuts across the Central American nation and is the main link between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has been on a visit to Latin American countries this week, demanded that Panama make “immediate changes” to what he calls the “influence and control” of China over the canal.

America’s top diplomat said Panama had to act or

the US would take necessary measures to protect its rights under a treaty between the two countries.

During a visit to the coun-

try, Rubio met Panama’s President José Raúl Mulino, as well as the canal’s administrator, Ricaurte Vásquez Morales.

the waterway had ports of origin or destination in the United States, according to the canal’s authorities.

Up to 14,000 ships use the

“no presence of any nation in the world that interferes with our administration”.

Trump recently reiterated his claim. Despite say-



The ACP said after his visit that it had conveyed its intention to work with the US navy to optimise transit priority for its vessels through the canal.

This commitment for dialogue with Washington remained, it said in a separate statement on Wednesday.

US vessels make up a significant proportion of traffic in the canal. In 2024, 52% of transits through

canal each year to avoid a lengthy and costly trip around the tip of South America.

In his inaugural speech, President Trump said he planned to “take back” the canal, alleging that China was operating it and Panama had “broken” a promise to remain neutral.

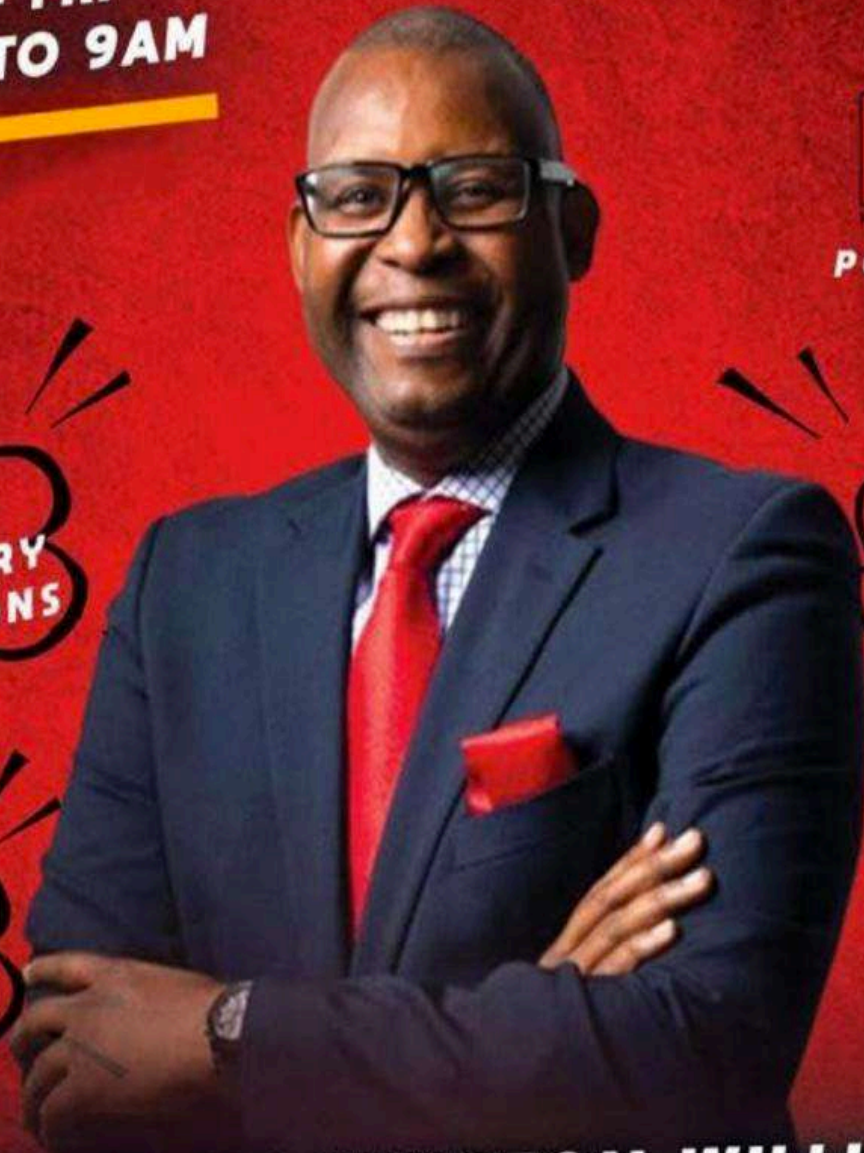
The plan was strongly rejected by Mulino, who said the key trade route “is and will remain” in the country’s hands.

He also rejected Trump’s allegations about China’s influence, saying there is

ing earlier this week he was “not happy” with the situation, he acknowledged that Panama had “agreed to certain things”. Mulino has said his country will not continue its membership in China’s infrastructure-building programme, the Belt and Road Initiative.

The US built the canal in the early 20th Century but, after years of protest, President Jimmy Carter signed a treaty with Panama in 1977 to gradually hand back control of the waterway, which Trump has branded “a big mistake”. (BBC News)

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Sports News



Ojays win again in ABBA's Division 2 league



The Cutie's Ovals Ojays continued their successful start to their campaign in the Second Division of the 2025 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) domestic season on Wednesday evening.

After soaring to an emphatic 78-60 victory against Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers in their opening encounter, the Ovals Ojays made it two wins in as many games with a 70-58 drubbing of Ramco Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Raheem Sawyer scored 15 points; Tequan Brodie produced 14 points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; Tajahron Davis had 14 points and five rebounds; and Shaheim Omarde contributed 12 points and five rebounds for the Ovals Ojays.

Romel Gomez converted 15 points; Rafiki Harris had 12 points, six rebounds, and five steals; and Joel Christian scored 12 points for the Fearless Crew.

It was the first defeat for the Fearless Crew, who snatched a 58-50 victory against Michael Joseph Phoenix in their opening encounter.

After suffering an 82-96 loss to Spanish Heat in their opening encounter, the Navigators rebounded to claim a 69-49 victory against the Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers in the second game of Wednesday's double-header.

De-Lornge Jules converted 18 points and snatched six rebounds; Baldwin Anthony sank 15 points and

grabbed 15 rebounds; Victor Osborne scored 12 points; and Ariel Quallis contributed 10 points, 13 rebounds, eight steals, and seven assists for the Navigators.

Devea Aaron sank 17 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Kelvin Simon scored 13 points and claimed 16 rebounds, Craig Thomas converted nine points and snatched 13 rebounds, and Kedar Clarke had eight points and eight rebounds for the Old Road Daggers.

It was the second loss in as many games for the Curtain Bluff Old Road Daggers.

The ABBA First Division will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening (tomorrow).

Lava Smoke Shop Warriors will face Da Project in the first encounter at 6:45 pm, and Total Imports Potters Steelers will take on the All Saints Slam at 8:30 pm.

PMA and J.T. Ambrose get wins in school basketball league



Players of the Post Millennial Academy and the J.T. Ambrose Primary compete in the Minigirls Primary Division in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex, February 5, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the school basketball league)

Post Millennial Academy (PMA) and J.T. Ambrose Primary recorded wins in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball League on Wednesday.

Both teams recorded wins in the Minigirls Primary Division of the league at the JSC Sports

Complex.

Kimilah Choy sank six points to lead Post Millennial Academy to an 8-0 victory against J.T. Ambrose Primary.

Jamika Anglin converted six points as J.T. Ambrose Primary rebounded to prevail 8-4 against Cedar Grove

Primary.

Meanwhile, the second team of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) and Christ the King High School (CKHS) recorded wins in the Female Division of the Development League in the Ministry of Sports Inter-School Volleyball League on Wednesday.

The second team of the Antigua Girls High School prevailed 15-6, 15-6 against Princess Margaret School in the first game of a double-header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Christ the King High School pulled off a 15-8,

15-7 victory against Jennings Secondary School in the second encounter.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School and Ottos Comprehensive School also made a winning start to their campaigns in the female division of the school volleyball league.

The first team of the Antigua Girls High School pulled off a 25-18, 25-21 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School.

However, Ottos Comprehensive School rebounded to prevail 2-1 against Clare Hall Secondary, winning 21-25, 25-22, and 17-15.

Mixed fortunes for Irene B. Williams in schools' netball championship



MINISTRY OF SPORTS

Schools Netball Competition

The Irene B. Williams Secondary had mixed fortunes in the Ministry of Sports, Cool & Smooth Schools' Netball Competition on Wednesday.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary won by a 17-point margin in pulling off a 24-7 victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the Under-16 Division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

But Irene B. Williams Secondary lost 6-9 to Antigua State College in the

Under-20 Division.

Clare Hall Secondary thrashed Princess Margaret School 22-6, and AGHS-1 (Antigua Girls High School) prevailed 5-1 against Christ the King High School in the Under-16 category.

Christ the King High School had success in the Under-20 Division, prevailing 11-3 against Ottos Comprehensive School.

In other results, Irene B. Williams Secondary snatched a 5-3 victory

against Christ the King High School, and AGHS-2 romped to a commanding 22-3 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School in the 16 and Under Division.

In the 13 and Under Secondary Division, Princess Margaret School snatched a 7-6 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School, AGHS-2 coasted to a 6-0 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy, and All Saints Secondary School prevailed 4-3 against the Clare Hall Secondary School.

In the Under-13 Primary Division, Sunnydale Primary beat J.T. Ambrose Primary 4-1, Nelvie N. Gore of Willikies prevailed 3-1 against Potters Primary, and Liberta Primary also pulled off a 3-1 victory against Buckley's Primary.

In the Under-13 Primary Development Division, C.T. Samuel Primary claimed a 4-2 victory against Greenbay Primary, and T.N. Kirnon Primary snatched a 1-0 victory against Five Islands Primary.

Matches resume in ABCA's two-day contest

The 10 teams will go in search of success when the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) two-day competition resumes this weekend.

This weekend's action follows last week's opening round, which kicked off the 2025 ABCA domestic season, in which three teams made winning starts to their campaigns.

Following last week's demolition of the Bolans

Blasters by an innings and 224 runs, defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will be on the hunt for more scalps when they host WES Rising Sun Spartans at Ball Beef in Liberta in one of the second-round two-day matches that will take place across five venues in Antigua on Saturday.

The New Winthropes Lions, who crushed the All Saints Pythons by six

wickets at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints last week, will travel to face the Jennings Tigers in Jennings.

After trouncing the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by an innings and 46 runs at the Bethesda playing field in their opening encounter, Empire Nation will seek to maintain their winning form when they take on Tertiary Institutions and

School, formerly Combined Schools, at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

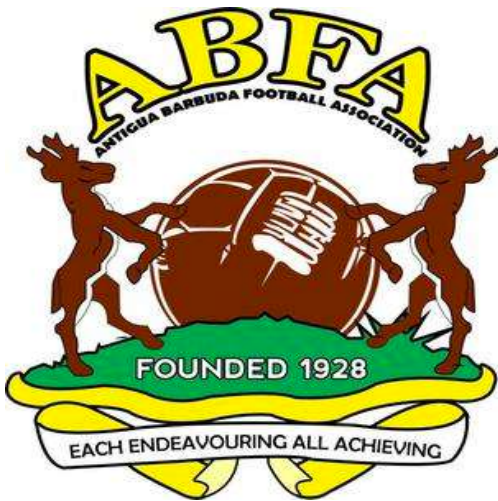
In the other two matches on Saturday, the All Saints Pythons will tackle the Bolans Blastars at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints, and the Bethesda Golden Eagles will clash with the Pigotts Crushers at the Pigotts playing field.

All matches will commence on Saturday at 10 am.

Sports News



Herberts and Wings draw in Second Division League



There were no winners in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

The CPTSA Wings and Herberts FC played to a goalless draw in the only match that was played on the day.

Herberts FC will move on to four points but will remain in the cellar of the Second Division after recording their fourth draw in 12 matches.

The CPTSA Wings will advance to 15 points after securing their third draw in 12 matches.

The ABFA's Second Division will continue on Friday (today) with four matches, starting at 4:20 pm.

Blackburn Palace will meet the Young Warriors at the PMS playing field, and Glanvilles FC will take on Real Blizzard at the New Winthorpes playing field.

West Ham FC will tackle Belmont FC, and TAMO FC will face Earthquake FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Meanwhile, the group, or second phase of the Premier Division, will

continue with the second round of matches during a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

Garden Stars will face the Potters Tigers at 4 pm, Sandals and APUA Inet Jennings Grenades will tackle the Willikies Warriors at 6 pm, and FC Aston Villa Lions will take on Island Original John Hughes at 8 pm.

In Sunday's triple-header, Old Road will oppose the Attacking Saints at 4 pm, defending champions Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United will challenge Five Islands at 6 pm, and Terminix Pigotts Bullets will clash with Green City FC at 8 pm.

The Greenbay Hoppers and Parham FC receive byes during the second round of matches.

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PMS drop points in U/20 Girls School Football League

Defending champions Princess Margaret School (PMS) dropped points in defense of their title in the Under-20 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Joma Female School Football League on Wednesday.

After launching their title defense with a one-nil victory against Clare Hall Secondary in the opening round, Princess Margaret School could only manage a 1-1 draw with the Antigua Girls High School in the second match of a double-header at the Antigua Recreation Ground (ARG).

Rolisha Humphreys, who struck the winner against Clare Hall, once again came to the rescue of Princess Margaret School by scoring a 30th-minute equalizer after Thedia Browne gave Antigua Girls High School the lead with a sixth-minute conversion.

It was the second successive draw for the Antigua Girls High School after battling to a 1-1 draw with Jennings Secondary School in their opening encounter.

The Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda School of Continuing Education (HCABSCE)



Jordyn Henriques scored all four goals to propel St. Anthony's Secondary School to a 4-3 victory against Jennings Secondary at the St. Anthony's Secondary School playing field on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)

and Clare Hall Secondary fought to a goalless draw in the first game of Wednesday's double-header at the ARG.

The HCABSCE, formerly ABICE, suffered a 5-1 loss to St. Anthony's Secondary School in their opening encounter.

St. Anthony's Secondary School moved two points clear at the top of the standings after recording their second win in as many matches.

Jordyn Henriques scored all four goals to propel St. Anthony's Secondary School to a 4-3 victory against Jennings Secondary at the St. Anthony's Secondary School playing field.

Henriques had conversions in the third, 23rd, 49th, and 55th minutes for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Abigail McDonald had a double conversion, and Latoya Williams scored once for Jennings Secondary School.

Meanwhile, the Under-16 Division of the Ministry of Sports Cool and Smooth Joma Female School Football League will kick off with a double-header at the ARG on Friday (today).

Defending champions Princess Margaret School will face St. Mary's Secondary School at 2:30 pm, and Antigua Girls High School will take on Clare Hall Secondary School at 3:30 pm.